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REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTERS, FIRST PHASE: TOXIC CHEMICALS AND HAZARDOUS WASTES

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Toxic chemicals

1. The Commission noted that efforts to control chemical risks to human health and the environment had not kept pace with the widespread and growing use of chemicals in all sectors worldwide.

2. The Commission recalled that Agenda 21 1/ stated that a significant strengthening of both national and international efforts was needed to achieve an environmentally sound management of chemicals. In that context, the Commission urged Governments, international organizations and relevant non-governmental actors to increase their efforts to ensure that chemicals were used and managed in a sustainable way.

3. The Commission called for United Nations bodies and other international organizations to improve international coordination to avoid the unnecessary duplication of efforts and to strengthen the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) in order to share the burden of work, involving the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Commission of the European Union.

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

4. The Commission took note of the International Conference on Chemical Safety, which was convened by WHO, UNEP and ILO in Stockholm from 25 to 29 July 1994, at the invitation of the Swedish Government, and was attended by 114 Governments and relevant international organizations. The Commission also welcomed the establishment of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, as well as the Priorities of Action adopted by the Conference, which are contained in the annex.

5. The Commission endorsed the Priorities of Action and welcomed in particular the targets and timetables agreed upon, and called on Governments, international organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations to implement the Priorities.

6. The Commission urged Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to actively participate in the Forum, encouraging close links between a strengthened IPCS and the Forum.

7. The Commission welcomed the invitation of Governments to host inter-sessional meetings of the Forum.

8. The Commission acknowledged the important role of the Forum in the follow-up and review of chapter 19 of Agenda 21 and invited the Forum to report to the Commission on its work, when appropriate, before the special session of the General Assembly in 1997.

9. The Commission welcomed the recent progress by the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the Implementation of the Amended London Guidelines in the development of possible elements for a legally binding instrument for the mandatory application of the prior-informed-consent (PIC) procedure on a global level and recommended that UNEP, together with FAO and in close consultation with other international organizations, continue to evaluate and address problems with the implementation of the voluntary PIC procedure and to develop effective legally binding instruments concerning the PIC procedure.

10. The Commission appreciated the recently agreed Code of Ethics on the International Trade in Chemicals, stressing that it should be widely applied by industry in all countries without delay, and emphasized the role of industry as a major player in furthering the objectives in chapter 19 of Agenda 21, especially as regards risk assessment, the provision of data and the adoption and implementation of risk-reduction measures.

11. The Commission took note of the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 2/ adopted at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island

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2/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, forthcoming), resolution 1, annex II.

Developing States, which, among other things, called for appropriate assistance to enable small island developing States to control risks to human health and the environment of their peoples.

12. The Commission recognized the need for Governments to develop appropriate economic instruments to strengthen the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and invited Governments to report to the Commission, at its next session, on their experience of applying economic instruments in that regard.

13. The Commission recognized the importance of taking action to address the health and environmental impacts of chemicals. As one example, it took note of the severe health impacts of human exposure to lead, endorsed the ongoing work on that issue in several international forums and encouraged further efforts to reduce human exposure to lead.

14. The Commission recognized the need for Governments and intergovernmental forums to identify persistent and bio-accumulative chemicals with a view to phasing out or banning such chemicals.

15. The Commission noted the need to assess both the relative cost-effectiveness of programmes for implementing chapter 19 of Agenda 21 and whether the commitments undertaken met the needs of the public, bearing in mind the risk of frequent contact with chemicals in everyday life.

16. The Commission acknowledged that efficient coordination of the work on chemical safety on the part of concerned sectors at the national level, the active participation of industry and employees as part of the mobilization of the non-governmental sector, and the strengthening of the community right to knowledge through environmental reports, eco-audits, emission inventories and similar instruments were important factors for increased chemical safety.

17. The Commission stressed the need for strengthening national capabilities and capacities for the management of chemicals, particularly in developing countries, and encouraged the commitment of Governments to concrete bilateral action in that area.

18. The Commission stressed the need for full implementation of both the agreements on technology transfer contained in chapter 34 of Agenda 21 and the relevant decisions of the Commission. In that context, the Commission urged the international community to find concrete ways and means to transfer to developing countries and economies in transition appropriate technologies as regards toxic chemicals and chemical safety.

19. The Commission urged Governments to mobilize financial resources to respond to the above priorities, as agreed in Agenda 21, chapter 33 and the relevant decisions of the Commission.

20. The Commission invited the task manager to continue to monitor progress made by the United Nations and other international agencies in implementing chapter 19 of agenda 21 and to inform the Commission periodically of such progress through the Inter-Agency Commission on Sustainable Development.

Annex

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

Introduction

1. While Agenda 21 gives the overall objectives of the six programme areas and suggestions for their implementation, the adopted recommendations indicate priorities for immediate actions and goals to be achieved in the longer term. Agenda 21 states that its successful implementation is first and foremost the responsibility of governments. Accordingly, the given recommendations are first of all dealing with priorities for action by governments, but several of them regard work by which international bodies may develop effective tools for use by governments.

2. Close cooperation between international organizations and governments, and the development and strengthening of cooperation at the regional level are in a great number of cases important means to enhance significantly the result of recommended actions.

3. National implementation of international agreements on chemical safety should be encouraged.

4. At the national level, an efficient coordination of the work on chemical safety by concerned sectors is a prerequisite for successful results. Active participation of employers and workers, mobilization of the non-governmental sector, and strengthening of the community right to know are important factors for increased chemical safety.

5. Much of the work to strengthen chemical safety has been carried out by several United Nations bodies and programmes, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the European Union, a number of countries, industries, trade unions and other non-governmental organizations, resulting in many useful tools for improvement of chemical safety. An expanded knowledge and use of these means should be promoted.

6. Adequate and good quality information on scientific, technical, economic and legal matters are essential for the sound management of chemicals. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition have particular problems in this regard. Bilateral technical assistance, transfer of technology, and other kinds of support should be increased in order to accelerate their development.

7. In all programme areas, there is a need for education and training. Efforts to satisfy this need should be carefully coordinated, and emphasis should be put on training the trainers.

8. Risk reduction activities should take into account the whole life cycle of a chemical, and chemical controls and pollution control initiatives should be closely integrated. Where relevant, the precautionary approach, as outlined in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, should be applied.

9. Special attention should be paid to occupational safety and health problems caused by chemicals, primarily in the interest of protecting workers' health. In addition, epidemiological and other data based on human experience have always proven to be valuable with respect to other chemical-related problems.

10. When determining priorities for risk management, the implementation of these will be dependent upon the chemicals management capabilities of individual countries. When setting priorities for international activities, high priority should be given to those where achievement of goals can occur only when action is carried out at the international level. Activities leading to greater efficiency and cost savings, e.g. sharing of risk assessment reports of adequate quality, should be promoted. Completion of work where significant initiatives are well under way should have priority before initiating new programme activities.

11. Major actions undertaken should be monitored to assess progress.

12. The order in which the following recommendations are presented does not indicate various degrees of importance.

Programme area A. Expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks

1. Needs for different types of health and environmental risk assessments should be identified and criteria for setting priorities for the various types of risk assessments should be agreed. Applying these criteria, an initial list of chemicals (including those of high production volume) for risk assessment by the year 1997 should be established as soon as possible.

2. Harmonized approaches for performing and reporting health and environmental risk assessments should be agreed as soon as possible. Such protocols should be based on internationally agreed principles to permit the full use of risk assessments performed by both national authorities and international bodies.

3. An inventory of risk assessments that are planned, in preparation or completed should be established before the end of 1994.

4. Industry should be encouraged to generate and supply data required for risk assessment to the greatest possible extent.

5. Human exposure data, and good quality health effects data from developing countries, should be generated.

6. Taking into account the results of the activities recommended in items 1 and 2 and making full use of the evaluations produced by United Nations bodies, OECD, and others, 200 additional chemicals should be evaluated by 1997.

7. If the target in item 6 is met, another 300 chemicals should be evaluated by 2000.

8. The general principles for establishing guidelines for exposure limits, including the setting of safety factors, needs to be harmonized and described.

Countries should establish guidelines for exposure limits for humans and for particular environmental compartments for as many chemicals as possible, taking into account the harmonization efforts and the potential use of such guidelines.

9. Research and development should be promoted for the better understanding of the mechanisms of adverse effects of chemicals on humans and the environment.

10. Attempts should be made to further reduce the use of vertebrate animals in toxicity testing by encouraging the development, validation and use of alternative methods.

Programme area B. Harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals

1. The ongoing technical work on classification criteria should be strengthened to enable finalization by 1997. Continued work to harmonize classification systems and to establish compatible hazard communication systems, including labelling and safety data sheets, should be completed by 2000.

2. Countries should ensure that there is sufficient consultation to allow the development of a consistent national position on harmonization of classification systems.

3. An international framework for translating the result of the technical work on harmonization into an instrument or recommendations applicable legally at the national level should be established at an appropriate time.

Programme area C. Information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks

1. Networks for information exchange should be strengthened to take full advantage of the information dissemination capacities of all governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

2. Both the types of information exchanged and the methods of effecting the exchange should be tailored to meet the needs of major groups of users, taking due account of different languages and literacy levels.

3. Relevant data available from international bodies should be consolidated, if economically feasible, by 1997 on CD/ROM or other appropriate electronic media, together with suitable searching and updating facilities.

4. Sources of information useful to responding to chemical emergencies should be established and access to these sources should be readily and rapidly available.

5. Regional cooperation and information exchange networks should be established in all regions as soon as possible.

6. National institutions responsible for information exchange on chemicals should be created or strengthened, according to needs.

7. All countries should have nominated, by 1997, designated authorities for participation in the PIC procedure.

8. Work should continue to evaluate and address problems with implementation of the voluntary PIC procedure and to develop effective international legally binding instruments concerning the PIC procedure.

9. All countries which export chemicals subject to the PIC procedure should have the necessary mechanisms in place by 1997, including implementation and enforcement provisions, to ensure that export does not take place contrary to importing countries' decisions. Importing countries should also establish the necessary mechanisms.

10. In all developing countries and countries in economic transition, training should have been made available by 1997 in the implementation of the London Guidelines and the PIC procedure.

11. The circulation of safety data sheets for all dangerous chemicals being traded should be encouraged, as promoted by the recently agreed Code of Ethics on The International Trade in Chemicals.

Programme area D. Establishment of risk reduction programmes

1. In all countries chemical risks which are both readily identifiable and readily controllable should be reduced as soon as possible. In countries with sufficient resources, plans for the possible reduction of other chemical risks should be elaborated and enacted without delay. Industry, in accordance with the Polluter Pays Principle, has a particular responsibility to contribute to the implementation of risk reduction programmes. Governmental experience and progress in national risk reduction programmes shall be presented in a report by 1997 to serve as a basis for setting goals for the year 2000.

2. The feasibility and usefulness of extending pollutant release and transfer registers to more countries, including newly industrialized countries, should be evaluated and a report prepared by 1997.

3. As a particular priority, the recently agreed Code of Ethics on The International Trade in Chemicals should be applied widely by industry in all countries without delay.

4. Efforts to promote the development and use of clean technology regarding the production and use of chemicals should be encouraged.

5. Countries should review their pesticides safety strategy in order to protect human health and the environment, including surface and groundwater. To reduce pesticide risks, countries should consider promoting the use of adequate safer pesticides, as well as the decreased use by better management practices and the introduction of alternative pest management technologies. A progress report should be prepared by 1997.

6. By 1997 not less than 25 more countries should have implemented systems for prevention of major industrial accidents in accordance with international principles such as those contained in the 1993 ILO Convention (No. 174) on the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents, and the United Nations Economic

Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

7. By 1997 not less than 50 more countries should have introduced national systems for emergency preparedness and response, including a strategy for education and training of personnel, with the aid of, inter alia, the APELL programme and the ILO Code of Practice on the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents (1991).

8. By 1997 not less than 40 more countries should have established poison control centres with related clinical and analytical facilities, and good progress should have been made on harmonizing systems for recording data in different countries.

9. Priority attention should also be given to finding and introducing safe substitutes for chemicals with which high and unmanageable risks are associated. Governments, industries and users of chemicals should also develop, where feasible, new less hazardous chemicals and new processes and technologies which effectively prevent pollution.

10. While recognizing that risk reduction activities are primarily national responsibilities, international risk reduction programmes could also be warranted for those problems that are international in scope.

11. Attention should also be paid to ensuring that all countries introduce appropriate legislation to implement United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and to ensuring that this legislation is regularly updated whenever the Recommendations are revised, especially in the context of the global harmonization of classification and labelling systems.

Programme area E. Strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals

1. The strengthening of national capabilities and capacities to manage chemicals in a great number of developing countries requires, in addition to funding and support from developed countries, innovative thinking as to how to make best use of existing systems. Bilateral assistance arrangements between developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be encouraged. Efficient regional cooperation is of the utmost importance.

2. National profiles to indicate the current capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals and the specific needs for improvement should be elaborated as soon as possible and not later than 1997.

3. Comprehensive guidelines for chemical legislation and enforcement should be elaborated as soon as possible, taking into account, inter alia, the principles of the 1990 ILO Chemicals Convention (No. 170).

4. By 1997 mechanisms for ensuring liaison of all parties involved in chemical safety activities within a country should be established in the majority of countries.

5. Further education programmes and training courses should be arranged at the national and regional level to provide a core of trained people, both technical staff and policy makers, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

6. Efforts should be made to improve the coordination of activities in the area of education, training and technical assistance.

7. As a longer term objective, chemical information systems should be established in all countries, comprehensive legislation should be enacted and enforcement procedures be in place. Continued campaigns to increase the public awareness of chemical risks and their prevention should be run.

Programme area F. Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products

Until control legislation is in place in a sufficient number of countries, as a basis for further legal international instruments to halt illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products, all efforts should be made to improve the situation, including strengthening of the PIC procedure.

Domaine d'activité F du programme. Prévention du trafic international illicite des produits toxiques et dangereux

En attendant qu'une législation soit en place dans un nombre suffisant de pays et forme la base de nouveaux instruments juridiques internationaux destinés à mettre fin au trafic illicite de produits toxiques et dangereux, il ne faut ménager aucun effort pour améliorer la situation, notamment en renforçant la procédure PIC.

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REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTERS, FIRST PHASE: HEALTH, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND FRESHWATER

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Protecting and promoting human health

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development examined the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.17/1994/3) as well as a background paper on health, environment and sustainable development prepared by the World Health Organization (WHO) as task manager.

2. The Commission took note, with appreciation, of the outcome of the Inter-sessional Workshop on Health, the Environment and Sustainable Development, held in Copenhagen from 23 to 25 February 1994 and organized by the Government of Denmark. In that context, the Commission particularly underlined the importance of the recommendations of the Copenhagen meeting focusing on the need to integrate health, environment and sustainable development goals and activities through innovative and holistic approaches.

3. The Commission reaffirmed that the promotion and protection of human health was of central concern in sustainable development as was reflected in the very first principle of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1/ which stated that human beings were at the centre of concern for sustainable development and were entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. In that context, the Commission stressed the fact that the protection and promotion of human health depended on activities stemming from all sectors.

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

4. The Commission welcomed the Global Strategy for Health and Environment developed by WHO and endorsed by the World Health Assembly.

5. The Commission recognized the critical importance of funding for health and highlighted the need to focus funding on preventive measures. While emphasizing the importance of adopting a preventive approach to building health-related services, the Commission also stressed the necessity to respond to the needs of curative medicine. To meet those requirements, the Commission called for the strengthening of the health infrastructure, particularly in developing countries, with the cooperation of the international community, where necessary.

6. The Commission identified the rural sector and the urban slums as particular social sectors that would benefit from the strengthening of health systems because special attention in those areas would strengthen the implementation of the priorities identified in the Commission decisions on human settlements.

7. Poverty was identified as an underlying significant element to be addressed in the integrated implementation of health aspects of Agenda 21. Eradicating malnutrition and hunger, which affected some one billion people in the world, was a fundamental prerequisite to providing health for all. The Commission therefore reaffirmed the commitments to poverty eradication in the context of sustainable development contained in the Rio Declaration, and the fundamental relationship of the eradication of poverty to the overall goals of health promotion and protection.

8. While recognizing the impact of population growth on health, environment and development, and vice versa, and looking forward to the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Commission recognized that the provision of basic and assured health care, particularly to women and children, was a vital prerequisite to the reduction of high rates of population growth.

9. The specific needs of vulnerable groups were emphasized as priority areas. In addition to the three vulnerable groups identified in chapter 6 of Agenda 21 2/ (women, children and indigenous people), the Commission took note of the similarly special health needs of the aged, the disabled, and the displaced. The Commission further noted the contribution of food aid as an important aspect of efforts directed at the improvement of nutritional and overall health of vulnerable groups.

10. The Commission noted that traditional health-related knowledge, borne especially by women and indigenous people, made a contribution to overall health and stressed the need for increased research in that field with a view to supporting its use where adequately validated.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

11. The Commission also noted that the work-place was both a source of health-related problems and at the same time provided a useful community basis for implementing and monitoring preventive health programmes through the participation of workers.

12. The Commission underlined that it was of crucial importance to change consumption patterns, in particular in developed countries, as well as production patterns in order to ensure that products and production processes with adverse health and environmental effects gradually disappeared. Detailed and specific product information, such as adequate labelling, could therefore create changes in the market towards cleaner products. In that context, the Commission stressed the need for continually updating the "Consolidated list of products whose consumption and/or sale have been banned, withdrawn, severely restricted or not approved by Governments", and for undertaking further measures to broadly disseminate information contained in that list. Furthermore, the Commission stressed the need for assisting countries to implement the set of guidelines for consumer protection adopted by the General Assembly in 1985.

13. The Commission expressed deep concern about chemical substances with potential health hazards that were widely used in industry, consumer products and food production and processing. The impact on human health, especially of long-term exposure to low doses of synthetic chemicals with potential neurotoxic, reproductive or immunotoxic effects, and their synergistic effects on nature, was not yet sufficiently understood. The Commission therefore emphasized the need to control their use and to minimize the emission of hazardous chemicals to prevent increasing concentrations in the environment.

14. The Commission recognized the ongoing health reform efforts and emphasized the need for further concrete actions in the follow-up to the first review of progress in implementing the activities of chapter 6, particularly for the 1997 review of Agenda 21. In that context, the Commission recognized four lines of health reform identified by WHO as constituting a suitable programme of action for Governments to pursue within the framework of their national sustainable development programmes:

(a) Community health development: undertaking health promotion and protection as part of more holistically conceived community-based development programmes;

(b) Health sector reform: increasing the allocation of resources to the most cost-effective health protection and promotion programmes as seen in the longer run and in the interest of obtaining sustainable development;

(c) Environmental health: increasing understanding of the impact of policies and programmes of other sectors upon human health and mobilizing financing and action in those sectors accordingly;

(d) Nation decision-making and accounting: health impact assessments, accounting and other means of promoting the integration of health, the environment and sustainable development into national decision-making with a view to strengthening health-sector representation and incorporating health and its financing in development planning.

15. The Commission concluded that the following priorities should receive particular attention of Governments and the relevant international organizations:

(a) Strengthening health-sector representation in national decision-making, including the full participation of major groups;

(b) Establishing a firm partnership between health/health-related services, on the one hand, and the communities being served, on the other, that respected their rights and local traditional practices, where adequately validated;

(c) Including population issues in basic health systems, as approved in chapter 6, paragraphs 6.25 and 6.26 of Agenda 21 and without prejudice to the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development;

(d) Including food security, the improvement of the population's nutritional status, food quality, and food safety in national development plans and programmes aimed at improved health in the context of sustainable development;

(e) Reassessing health expenditures with a view to more cost-effective health protection and promotion measures, including, where appropriate, the increasing use of economic instruments, such as user fees and insurance systems, in order to generate funds for efficient health systems;

(f) Assuring that health was integrated into the environmental impact assessment procedures;

(g) Enhancing efforts towards the prevention and eradication of communicable diseases, including acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and malaria;

(h) Establishment of adequate structures for environmental health services at the local and, where appropriate, provincial levels in order to further encourage decentralization of health-related programmes and services and to take full advantage of the potentials within the sphere of the local authorities;

(i) Increasing public awareness for health aspects, especially with respect to nutrition, communicable diseases, population issues and health hazards from modern lifestyles through primary, secondary and adult education. Special effort should be made to incorporate environmental health issues in the training of all professionals directly or indirectly faced with environmental and health problems (e.g., medical professionals, architects and sanitary engineers);

(j) Enhancing multidisciplinary research into the linkages between health and environment;

(k) Assuring access, exchange and dissemination of information on health and environment parameters for everyone, with particular attention to the needs of vulnerable groups and other major groups;

(l) Ensuring that knowledge of clean technology was disseminated in such a way that it contributed to the prevention of man-made health problems, especially concerning the use of pesticides and food production and processing;

(m) Ensuring close collaboration and coordination of concerned United Nations organizations in the implementation of those priorities;

(n) Building, where possible, on the achievements of existing programmes developed individually and jointly by United Nations agencies, Governments and relevant groups in civil society;

(o) Promoting the participation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups in the health sector as important partners in the development of innovative action, and strengthening a bottom-up community involvement;

(p) Encouraging further partnerships between the public and the private sectors in health promotion and protection;

(q) Building up greater institutional capacity in the tangible implementation of those priorities from the point of conception and planning to the management and evaluation of appropriate health and environmental policies and operational elements at community, local, national, regional and international levels.

16. The Commission took note of the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States 3/ adopted at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and urged that adequate support be given to the overall goals of health promotion and protection identified in the Programme of Action.

17. The Commission invited the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) to consider in its follow-up work on chapter 6 and in preparation of the 1997 review, the following priority areas:

(a) Supporting developing countries and economies in transition in the development of national environmental health plans as part of national sustainable development programmes; such plans should (i) address the cross-sectoral aspects of environmental health and identify action by other sectors for health protection and promotion, and (ii) emphasize the provision of environmental health services at local level along with the development of primary environmental care;

(b) Extending scientific and public understanding of the cumulative effects of chemicals in consumer products, plant and animal-based food, water, soil and air on human health. Those chemicals included agricultural and non-agricultural pesticides, as well as other chemicals with, inter alia,

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3/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, forthcoming), resolution 1, annex II.

neurotoxic, immunotoxic and allergic effects. Special attention should be given to the impacts on vulnerable groups;

(c) Determining mechanisms that identified and controlled newly emerging infectious diseases and their possible environmental linkages;

(d) Providing a status report on the health implications of the depletion of the ozone-layer based on epidemiological studies in the context of the INTERSUN project, involving, inter alia, WHO, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), taking into account ongoing work under the Montreal Protocol;

(e) Developing an effective and efficient environmental health information system to collect and disseminate national, regional and international information on newly emerging environmental health problems by 1997.

18. The Commission requested that information on the status of community participation in the health sector be included in the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted for the 1997 review of Agenda 21.

19. The Commission invited WHO, as task manager, to continue to monitor progress made by the United Nations and other international agencies in implementing chapter 6. The Commission requested WHO to report periodically to IACSD on that matter and to make such reports available to the Commission.

20. The Commission requested countries to include in their national reports for the 1997 review session of the Commission a specific section on steps taken to promote and protect human health, highlighting the positive examples and models, indicating progress achieved and experiences gained, particularly experience from which others might benefit, and the specific problems and constraints encountered.

21. The Commission called upon Governments to strengthen their commitments to the health reform process, inter alia, through national, regional and international inter-sessional meetings that focused on special linkages between the health sector and other sectors.

22. The Commission stressed the need for a full implementation of the agreements on technology transfer contained in chapter 34 of Agenda 21 and the relevant decisions of the Commission. In that context, the Commission urged the international community to find concrete ways and means to transfer appropriate health-related technologies, including medical and pharmaceutical technologies, to developing countries and economies in transition.

23. The Commission urged Governments to mobilize financial resources to respond to the above priorities, as agreed in Agenda 21, chapter 33, and the relevant decisions of the Commission.

24. The Commission invited WHO and other relevant intergovernmental bodies to take those recommendations into full account in their future work.

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REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTERS, FIRST PHASE: HEALTH, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND FRESHWATER

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Human settlements

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development reviewed with appreciation the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.17/1994/5) and the background paper prepared by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on promoting sustainable human settlements development.

2. The Commission recognized, in the context of human settlements development, the importance of achieving sustainability and the goals of Agenda 21, 1/ particularly in view of the high rate of urbanization and the consequent challenge to the local and global environment, and also in view of the lack of shelter and sanitation for a large segment of the population in developing countries. While the urban development patterns in a number of countries, particularly in the developed countries, provided for a satisfactory standard of living for sizeable parts of the population, they also placed an extraordinary strain on the world's ecological resources and systems.

3. The Commission suggested that Governments take a balanced approach to all programme areas of chapter 7 and chapter 21. Land-resource management, urban transportation, access to adequate shelter, and the management of solid wastes, especially in developing countries, were identified as areas requiring greater attention. The Commission noted the close linkage between human settlements and the issues of water supply, sanitation and health.

1/ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

4. The Commission drew special attention to the potential contributions of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Istanbul in June 1996, and to the crucial role of UNCHS. That would be a key Conference, which was expected to support and further advance the objectives of Agenda 21.

5. The Commission drew attention to the linkages between unsatisfactory shelter and environmental conditions and the lack of access to land and security of tenure, on the one hand, and social divisions, violence and the degradation of personal safety, on the other. It was recognized that Governments at all levels should recognize that insecure and inhuman conditions for living and working both violated human rights and were a primary cause of social conflict and violent disruptions of civil society.

6. The Commission recognized that human settlements development needed to take a comprehensive approach that treated urban and rural problems as integral parts of the overall human settlements equation, since developing countries, in particular, faced rapid urban population growth due, inter alia, to increasing migration from rural to urban areas.

7. The Commission recommended that Governments and the international community give priority attention to human settlements programmes and policies to reduce urban pollution and to improve and expand urban services and infrastructure, particularly in low-income communities. Those efforts were seen as necessary to safeguarding human health, preserving the integrity of the natural environment and ensuring economic productivity. The "brown agenda" (a concept that addressed urban pollution resulting from inadequate water supply, sanitation and drainage, poor industrial and solid-waste management, and air pollution) was also highlighted as an umbrella approach to urban pollution issues that could be used to link and better implement Agenda 21 in the urban context.

8. The Commission took note of the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 2/ adopted by the international community at the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

9. The Commission underscored the crucial importance of action at the local level and confirmed the importance of the local Agenda 21 process, as specified in chapter 28 of Agenda 21. The participation of people at the local level, including major group representatives, to facilitate effective local action and efficient management of human settlements was indispensable. It was recognized that local authorities and their national and international associations were important partners for the decentralized implementation of appropriate human settlements programmes.

10. The Commission noted the financial and technical requirements needed to implement the human settlement activities set out in Agenda 21 and emphasized

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2/ Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, forthcoming), resolution 1, annex II.

the substantial resource and technology gap faced by developing countries and economies in transition in addressing human settlements problems.

11. The Commission noted the great potential that existed within the human settlements context for increased economic activity, job creation and related revenues, inter alia, as a result of building construction programmes. It was noted that such positive potentials could be realized through appropriate sustainable human settlements policies that emphasized greater use of local materials and human resources, encouraging and supporting design efficiency and energy-saving methods, among other initiatives. In that context, the work-place and the role of workers could be an important focus for the implementation of policies and programmes.

12. The integral role of the private sector in the development and dissemination of cost-effective and sustainable building materials, increased energy and materials efficiency, and sustainable waste management, was underlined. In that context, the Commission particularly highlighted the need to encourage local, small and micro-enterprises.

13. The Commission emphasized the need to strengthen human settlements management capacity, where appropriate, as a necessary prerequisite for the successful implementation of all human settlements-related components of Agenda 21. Particular emphasis was also placed on building the capacity of relevant major groups to encourage and enhance their contributions to local, regional and international human settlements development efforts.

14. The Commission noted, in regard to solid-waste management, that the promotion of waste recycling and reuse provided a unique opportunity in waste management; it helped to solve the problem of environmental degradation and had the potential to alleviate urban poverty and generate income amongst the urban poor. That would, however, require supply-side policies aimed at promoting and supporting resource recovery, and demand-side policies aimed at stimulating markets for recovered materials and products.

15. The Commission recognized that many developing countries were dependent on imported technologies for infrastructure development and improvements, including for solid-waste management, and noted that the international community had an important role to play in facilitating the transfer of environmentally sound technology. At the same time, full use should be made of locally available technologies that could be adapted to existing needs.

16. The Commission, therefore:

(a) Called on Governments to strengthen the networks of small- and medium-sized settlements in rural regions in order to provide attractive settlements opportunities and ease migratory pressure on large metropolises, and recommended that Governments implement programmes of rural development by expanding employment opportunities, providing educational and health facilities, strengthening technical infrastructure, and encouraging rural enterprises and sustainable agriculture, and further called upon the international community to support those rural development programmes;

(b) Recommended that Governments and the private sector, particularly in the developed countries, increase their efforts to develop new and environmentally sound technologies for urban transportation, other infrastructure and buildings, as well as environmentally sound products, in order to reduce demands on natural resources. Those technologies and products, as well as the information related to them should, where appropriate, be made accessible to urban and environmental authorities in all countries;

(c) Called upon Governments to strengthen the economic, political and social institutions of civil society so as to enhance, especially at the municipal level, the capacity of local authorities, training institutions, community groups and non-governmental organizations to act as effective partners and organizers of sustainable development activities at the local level. The Commission further invited local authorities and their associations to exchange know-how on the effective management of human settlements, including satisfactory coordination and burden-sharing among central city and suburban local authorities in urban agglomerations, and, as appropriate, in rural areas.

17. The Commission, further:

(a) Requested Governments, the international community, UNCHS, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to fully support the preparatory process for the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), including at the regional level;

(b) Urged appropriate United Nations agencies, through the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD), to mobilize legal, economic and environmental expertise for the development of equitable and sustainable land use planning and management strategies for human settlements of all sizes;

(c) Called upon Governments and international organizations to emphasize "best practice" in delivery mechanisms, including demand-driven systems, increased networking, bottom-up capacity-building, demonstration/replication strategies, regional coordination and decentralized local management and, in that context, called for a review of "best practice" applications to provide a basis for the systematic dissemination of effective models;

(d) Invited the appropriate United Nations agencies and organizations, through IACSD, to launch a demonstration initiative for environmentally friendly urban transport. That initiative should draw together the best available expertise on urban infrastructure management and should facilitate the exchange of knowledge on "best practices" between developed and developing countries. The Secretary-General was invited to report to the Commission on progress in that area by 1997;

(e) Invited appropriate United Nations agencies and international organizations, through IACSD, to consider the feasibility of preparing and implementing integrated environment upgrading demonstration projects for human settlements in three mega-cities: one each from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The Secretary-General was invited to report to the Commission on progress in that area by 1997;

(f) Called upon Governments and international agencies to support and encourage local, small and micro-enterprises, which, particularly in the context of local development, developed and offered environmentally sustainable building components and related products as well as environmentally sound energy systems;

(g) Urged Governments and international organizations to give more concerted attention to the management of solid wastes. That should include promoting greater awareness of the environmental and health risks from solid waste and the impact of changes in production and consumption patterns on the volume and type of such waste, as well as utilizing the resources and potential of the private sector, including the formal and informal sectors, and using indigenous technologies and techniques;

(h) Called upon appropriate United Nations agencies and international organizations, through IACSD, to establish joint programming mechanisms in the area of human settlements that were specifically focused on urban services and urban poverty and their linkages with health and the environment and urged donor organizations to support those joint programming initiatives;

(i) Urged the United Nations agencies and other international bodies to include in their urban monitoring and reporting activities appropriate indicators for the environmental performance of cities;

(j) Urged the international community, in carrying out its assistance activities, to explore, through appropriate authorities, the full range of joint programming options and new alliances with, inter alia, local authorities and associations of local authorities, national and international non-governmental organization, the private sector and women's and community groups;

(k) Requested the Secretary-General, in the context of reporting on section III of Agenda 21, to give special attention to the role of local authorities and to the progress they were making in the implementation of the human settlements objectives of Agenda 21;

(l) Invited the task manager to continue to monitor progress made by the United Nations and other international agencies in implementing chapter 7 of Agenda 21 and to inform the Commission periodically of such progress through IACSD;

(m) Called upon Governments and international organizations to focus greater attention on meeting the capital investment requirements of human settlements through enhanced resource mobilization strategies and policies that facilitate greater flows of private investment in infrastructure and services and all forms of public and private sector partnership in human settlements development;

(n) Urged Governments to mobilize financial and technological resources, as agreed in chapters 33 and 34 of Agenda 21, and in the relevant decisions of the Commission, to respond to the priorities contained in the decision.

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REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTERS, FIRST PHASE: TOXIC CHEMICALS AND HAZARDOUS WASTES

Draft decision by the Chairman

Hazardous wastes

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its second session, considering agenda item 6 (b), noted with concern that many countries faced severe and urgent health and environmental problems due to the production and mismanagement of hazardous waste by industrial and other economic activities, as a result of:

(a) The lack of environmentally sound waste treatment facilities and appropriate technologies;

(b) The lack of information and expertise;

(c) The lack of preventive approaches;

(d) The lack of financial resources to cover the enormous costs of treatment and remedial action;

(e) The illegal traffic in hazardous waste both nationally and across boundaries.

2. The Commission welcomed the progress achieved in the area of hazardous wastes and in that regard endorsed:

(a) The decisions taken by the Parties to the Basel Convention at their second meeting, which, inter alia, prohibited immediately all transboundary movement of hazardous wastes destined for final disposal from States that are members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to

non-OECD States, and the phase-out by 31 December 1997 of all transboundary movement of hazardous wastes that are destined for recycling and recovery, from OECD to non-OECD States;

(b) The decision to ban ocean dumping of industrial waste taken at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) by the Contracting Parties of the London Convention that is effective on 1 January 1996;

(c) Recent actions taken by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), IMO and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system and at national levels.

3. The Commission stressed, however, that the current situation needed further concrete action by Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in order to implement chapter 20 of Agenda 21 1/ and emphasized, while taking into account the state of development of each country, that particular attention should be given to:

(a) The prevention, to the extent possible, of hazardous wastes and a minimization of their toxicity through the development, dissemination and application of an integrated cleaner production approach in all planning, such as the UNIDO/UNEP Cleaner Production Centres, and the use of an appropriate mix of institutional and regulatory measures as well as economic instruments;

(b) The environmentally sound management and disposal of waste with a view to ensuring the principle of proximity and self-sufficiency.

4. The Commission urged Governments to:

(a) Ratify or accede to the Basel Convention and to develop adequate control regimes, such as customs procedures, as well as methods and tools of detection.

(b) Support the fund established by the Contracting Parties to the Basel Convention, which is still very short of resources, to specifically support developing countries' hazardous waste minimization and management needs.

5. The Commission urged the Parties to the Basel Convention to develop procedures and guidelines for the implementation of the recent decisions taken by the Parties at their second meeting, and, in cooperation with relevant units of UNEP as well as UNIDO and WHO, to assist specific developing countries on a

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

pilot basis, within the period 1994-1995, with the development of a legal framework for hazardous wastes management, the preparation and implementation of hazardous wastes management plans in specific geographical areas and capacity-building in the field.

6. The Commission invited the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to consider the feasibility of developing non-compliance procedures for the Convention.

7. The Commission urged the secretariat of the Basel Convention to undertake case studies of the illegal traffic in hazardous wastes and of wastes whose status is ill-defined and that are destined for recycling activities.

8. The Commission urged that the illegal disposal of tanker sludge and ballast water into marine waters be given high priority and recommended that they be subject to relevant requirements of the appropriate international conventions.

9. The Commission welcomed the efforts to develop regional arrangements similar to the Bamako Convention for the African region.

10. The Commission recalled and reaffirmed UNEP Governing Council decision 17/5 on the application of environmental norms by the military establishment and urged Governments to take action to fully implement the decision.

11. The Commission invited UNEP to consider the feasibility of arranging regional meetings in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions and regional organizations on the implementation of the decision and on how national environmental plans for the military establishment relating to hazardous waste management could be designed and implemented.

12. The Commission recommended that the following actions and measures be taken at the national level:

(a) Governments should establish and/or strengthen national institutions to manage hazardous wastes;

(b) Governments should develop and reinforce laws and regulations on hazardous wastes and strengthen their enforcement;

(c) Governments should, on the basis of toxic release inventories providing information on sources and quantities of hazardous wastes, develop and enhance integrated national hazardous waste management plans, taking into account all sources and fates of hazardous waste, e.g., industry, military establishments, agriculture, hospital and households;

(d) Priority should be given to activities designed to promote cleaner production, prevention and minimization to the extent possible of hazardous waste through applying the life-cycle approach and the provision of adequate information, research, development and demonstration activities as well as training and education;

(e) Case-studies on specific industry sectors should be launched in different countries, with particular emphasis on small- and medium-sized enterprises;

(f) Effective systems should be developed and maintained for the segregated collection of wastes, and incentives should be provided to encourage the segregation, recycling, reuse and reclamation of hazardous wastes.

13. In order to give support to national activities, the following regional and international measures should be taken:

(a) Efforts to support the exchange of information among and between developed and developing countries on the minimization and environmentally sound management of hazardous waste in support of the transfer of environmentally sound technologies should be increased;

(b) Focused training activities adapted to the specific local needs should be conducted.

14. The Commission underlined that production facilities transferred to developing countries and economies in transition should have environmentally sound waste management plans, so that the waste generated by those facilities, either by its quantity or quality, should not be harmful to the environment of those countries.

15. The Commission urged industry to develop voluntary codes of conduct for the use of clean technologies and the safe management of hazardous waste in all countries where they operated.

16. The Commission took note of the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 2/ adopted at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and urged that adequate support be given to various strategies identified in the Programme of Action for the management of hazardous wastes.

17. The Commission welcomed the proposal of Poland to join with UNEP in hosting an international symposium on cleaner production to strengthen the international activities in that field in Poland from 12 to 14 October 1994. Initiatives that minimize the production of hazardous wastes will contribute to advances in the area and offer economic advantages.

18. The Commission equally welcomed the proposal of Germany to host an international workshop in 1994 on the minimization and recycling of waste, including the development of strategies towards life-cycle management, which could also contribute to hazardous waste reduction.

2/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, forthcoming), resolution 1, annex II.

19. The Commission stressed the need for:

(a) Governments and relevant international organizations to develop economic instruments and consider mobilizing additional financing earmarked for hazardous waste management, and other measures to facilitate the prevention of hazardous waste, such as eco-labelling and mandatory take-back of used products;

(b) International organizations to harmonize testing methodologies and hazardous waste nomenclature, taking into account the work done by OECD;

(c) National and international institutions to assess the full dimension of soil and groundwater contamination, in particular that due to improper storage and disposal of hazardous wastes;

(d) Governments should require the necessary prevention and remedial actions to be undertaken to address the problems of contaminated soil and groundwater.

20. The Commission stressed the need for full implementation of the agreements on technology transfer contained in chapter 34 of Agenda 21 and the relevant decisions of the Commission. In that context, the Commission urged the international community to find concrete ways and means of transferring to developing countries and economies in transition appropriate technologies as regards the prevention, minimization, treatment, disposal techniques and remedial action of hazardous wastes.

21. The Commission urged Governments to mobilize financial resources to respond to the above priorities, as agreed in Agenda 21, chapter 33, and the relevant decisions of the Commission.

22. The Commission invited the task manager, UNEP, to continue to monitor progress made by the United Nations and other international agencies in implementing chapter 20 of Agenda 21 and to inform the Commission periodically of such progress through IACSD.

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REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTERS, FIRST PHASE: HEALTH, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND FRESHWATER

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Freshwater

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its second session, considering agenda item 6 (a), noted with great concern that many countries faced a water crisis with rapid deterioration of water quality, serious water shortages and reduced availability of freshwater, which severely affected human health, the ecosystem and economic development, due to:

(a) Increasing water demand, inappropriate water resource management and a lack of groundwater protection, particularly in agriculture and in and around areas of urban concentration;

(b) Natural and man-made causes of water shortage, such as periodic droughts, falling water tables, changing weather patterns, a reduced capacity of soils in some areas to retain moisture due to land degradation within catchment areas, and land degradation generally;

(c) A lack of public awareness about the need for conservation of freshwater supplies, especially safe drinking water, and for proper sanitation, associated with a lack of recognition of water as a finite resource, a social and economic good and an essential part of ecosystems.

2. The Commission was concerned that the water crisis infringed the basic human needs of present and future generations.

3. The Commission realized that the crisis needs urgent and concrete action by national Governments as well as international organizations in order to

implement chapter 18 of Agenda 21, 1/ particularly by supporting developing countries.

4. The Commission recommended that countries give priority attention to the integrated management, mobilization and use of water resources in a holistic manner, while stressing the importance of the involvement of local communities, in particular of women.

5. The Commission called for water to be considered as an integral part of the ecosystem, a natural resource and a social and economic good, the quantity and quality of which determined the nature of its utilization for the benefit of present and future generations.

6. The Commission recommended that the conservation and sustainable use of water should be given high priority, and invited the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to initiate model projects, to be carried out by relevant agencies, in order to examine and exemplify the feasibility of water-saving strategies in water-intensive agricultural, industrial, urban and domestic sectors.

7. The Commission realized that, in order to create changes through the new approaches brought about by Agenda 21, special attention should be given to:

(a) The mobilization and integrated management of water, including pollution minimization and prevention, taking into account implications for health, for the environment, for social and economic policy and for spatial planning;

(b) Investigations into the environmental flow requirements necessary to maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems and the development of integrated institutional methodologies for that purpose;

(c) The integrated management and conservation of river and lake basins, nationally, internationally and at all appropriate levels;

(d) The involvement of those people that were most directly affected by water management strategies in the planning of water infrastructure projects;

(e) Efforts to enable the integrated management of water at the lowest appropriate level and shifting to a system of a sustainable demand management;

(f) The implementation of the polluter pays principle, a pricing of water that equals its full costs while taking into account the special condition of the poor, and the prevention of wasteful consumption;

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

(g) The encouragement of partnership projects between all parties concerned;

(h) The promotion of a gender-perspective in water resources management;

(i) The modification of patterns of behaviour towards clean water and hygiene, including the promotion of educational programmes in that sphere;

(j) The promotion of greater efficiency of sustainable water use, water conservation and protection, particularly in agriculture, and the increased application of rainwater-harvesting techniques;

(k) The conservation and sustainable management of forests, including the promotion of afforestation as a significant means of halting soil degradation and increasing moisture retention;

(l) The bridging of the gap between physical, human and financial resources and the escalating demand for water and the need for sanitation;

(m) The search for innovations, both technological and non-technological, to protect our finite and vulnerable water resources, as well as the sharing of such innovative technologies on a global basis, in particular with developing countries;

(n) The use of environmental impact assessments with a multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach as a decision-making tool in water resources projects.

8. The Commission urged Governments to mobilize, within the framework established by chapter 33 of Agenda 21, adequate financial resources, through the use of all available sources and mechanisms, as well as maximizing the availability and smooth flow of additional resources, to implement chapter 18 of Agenda 21, and urged United Nations agencies and programmes to provide the necessary technical assistance, particularly to developing countries.

9. The Commission stressed the importance of capacity-building and the strengthening of institutional and human resource development programmes, in particular in developing countries, as an essential condition for efficient water management, mobilization and protection; priority should be given to the participation of women and youth at all levels of capacity-building. In that respect, the Commission took note of a constituent meeting of an International Network of Basin Organizations, held in Chambéry, France, from 4 to 6 May 1994.

10. The Commission encouraged the involvement of the private sector, the utilization of the "build-operate-transfer" approach and public-private partnerships when realizing water-related projects through foreign direct investment, international financial institutions, United Nations agencies, bilateral assistance and partnership projects between stakeholders.

11. The Commission took note, with appreciation, of the outcome of the International Ministerial Conference on Drinking Water and Environmental Sanitation, hosted by the Government of the Netherlands (Noordwijk, 22 and

23 March 1994) and of the results of the Round Table on Water and Health in Underprivileged Urban Areas hosted by the Government of France (Sophia Antipolis, 21-23 February 1994).

12. The Commission endorsed the Action Programme presented in document E/CN.17/1994/12 (annex), as one of the main instruments to assist in implementing programme area D of chapter 18 of Agenda 21.

13. The Commission requested that countries include in their 1997 national reports a specific section on national goals and strategies in the field of drinking water and environmental sanitation, including, as appropriate, target dates, with a view to the implementation of the Action Programme and with the assistance of international organizations.

14. The Commission invited Governments to assist on a voluntary basis in the furtherance of chapter 18 of Agenda 21 and to report on those activities to the Commission in 1997. It welcomed in that respect the offer already made by France, Morocco, the Netherlands and Tunisia regarding the implementation of the Action Programme.

15. The Commission welcomed the work carried out by the organizations of the United Nations system through the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources with regard to the systematic collection and analysis of information.

16. In that context, the Commission urged the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and other relevant United Nations bodies, as well as non-governmental organizations, to strengthen their efforts towards a comprehensive assessment of freshwater resources, with the aim of identifying the availability of such resources, making projections of future needs, and identifying problems to be considered by the special session of the General Assembly in 1997.

17. The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council to invite the Committee on Natural Resources to address, as part of the comprehensive assessment, the question of freshwater, at its third session in 1996.

18. The Commission invited Governments to cooperate actively with technical inputs to the process, taking into account the need for support for the full participation of developing countries, and welcomed the offer of the Government of Sweden to contribute in preparing a preliminary assessment of freshwater.

19. The Commission decided to review, at its 1997 session, the result of all the work outlined in paragraphs 16-18 above, in preparation for the 1997 special session of the General Assembly.

20. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system with a view to concentrating and consolidating the great amount of international action in the field of water, including the implementation of chapter 18 of Agenda 21, and to report to the Economic and Social Council.

21. The Commission further recommended to the Economic and Social Council that it consider the issue at its coordination segment in 1995.

22. The Commission took note of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 2/ adopted at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and urged that adequate support be given to various strategies identified in the Programme of Action to address water resources issues, in particular those related to water supply and environmental sanitation, as well as the health dimension of water quality.

23. The Commission recommended that future international conferences, such as the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and others, take into account relevant international agreements on water resources issues, in particular those related to water supply and environmental sanitation, as well as the health dimension of water quality.

24. The Commission invited the Secretary-General to transmit the above recommendations to those conferences.

2/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, forthcoming), resolution 1, annex II.

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REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTERS, FIRST PHASE: TOXIC CHEMICALS AND HAZARDOUS WASTES

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Radioactive wastes

1. The Commission acknowledged the report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved in the implementation of chapter 22 of Agenda 21 (E/CN.17/1994/15). The Commission requested the Secretary-General to issue an addendum to the report, including information on radioactive waste contained in the national reports received since the date of the report.

2. The Commission noted that the generation of radioactive waste continued to increase worldwide from nuclear power generation, the decommissioning of nuclear facilities, nuclear arms reduction programmes and the use of radionuclides in medicine, research and industry, and that enhanced effort had to be pursued, at both national and international levels, to promote the safe and environmentally sound management of radioactive waste.

3. The Commission also noted that radioactive defence wastes represented the same risks as other types of radioactive wastes. The management of radioactive defence waste was, in a number of countries, not subject to the same safety rules as the management of other radioactive waste and it was in those countries outside the control of national civilian radiation protection and safety authorities, but generally falling under military rules.

4. The Commission further noted that a number of countries had been involved in the monitoring and safe management of radioactive waste, that legislation had been enacted or amended and safety standards updated, and that licensing and control procedures had been reviewed.

5. The Commission recognized that efforts had been geared towards identifying and establishing permanent disposal sites for radioactive wastes and that

Governments were continuing their efforts to manage interim storage facilities and to find p actical measures for minimizing and limiting, where appropriate, the generation of those wastes.

6. The Commission welcomed the progress made in technical, legal and administrative measures at the national, regional and international levels with the aim of ensuring that radioactive wastes were safely managed, transported, stored and disposed of, or treated with a view to protecting human health and the environment.

7. The Commission supported the effective international cooperation in research, exchange of information and standard-setting that was carried out in the field under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and, concerning research and the exchange of information, the European Union. In particular, it welcomed the progress made in the IAEA Radioactive Waste Safety Standards (RADWASS) programme.

8. The Commission also welcomed the development by IAEA of the Codes of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste and by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of the Codes of Practice on the Safe Carriage of Irradiated Nuclear Fuel, Plutonium and High-level Radioactive Waste in Flasks on Board Ships.

9. The Commission expressed its satisfaction at the November 1993 decision at IMO by Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention, 1972) to convert the voluntary moratorium on ocean dumping of all radioactive wastes into a binding prohibition. That global prohibition would strengthen earlier bans agreed upon in regional contexts. The Commission urged all Contracting Parties to the Convention to respect its now binding character.

10. The Commission considered it an imperative principle that the export of radioactive wastes would be inadmissible to countries that did not have the technical, economic, legal and administrative resources for environmentally safe and sound management of radioactive wastes.

11. The Commission drew attention to the needs of developing countries and economies in transition to establish or strengthen their capacities for the safe management of radioactive wastes, including spent radiation sources.

12. The Commission:

(a) Urged Governments to apply the precautionary principle (e.g., preparatory measures for final disposal) in decisions concerning new or extended activities generating radioactive wastes;

(b) Urges Governments to undertake the further research and development of areas such as the minimization and reduction of volume of radioactive wastes, potential sites for the storage of radioactive wastes, safety and health standards associated with the handling of radioactive wastes and remediation procedures and processes;

(c) Calls upon Governments to fully implement the IAEA and other relevant codes of practice that have been adopted in the area of transboundary movements and the transport of radioactive wastes;

(d) Recommends that Governments encourage suppliers of sealed radiation sources to accept the return of such sources and ensure their safe and environmentally sound management after use;

(e) Calls upon Governments to ensure that radioactive wastes arising from military activities should be subject to the same types of strict safety and environmental regulations as those arising from civilian activities;

(f) Calls upon Governments to internalize, to the maximum extent possible, all costs of the operations of nuclear facilities and of related waste management, including the decommissioning of nuclear facilities;

(g) Supports worldwide efforts to demonstrate viable methods for the safe disposal of long-lived and high-level radioactive wastes and the reinforcement of international cooperation in the field.

13. The Commission urged Governments to promptly begin, in the context of IAEA, after the finalization of the Nuclear Safety Convention, work on the development of an international convention on the safety of radioactive waste management, including consideration, of the total life-cycle management of nuclear materials. In order to speed up the process, IAEA should urgently complete preparations related to safety fundamentals, which is a prerequisite for beginning such work.

14. The Commission invited IAEA, in cooperation with other relevant organizations, to continue to develop or improve standards for the management and safe disposal of radioactive wastes, and to report the results to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session.

15. The Commission called upon the international community:

(a) To further support the development of international standards for radioactive wastes management;

(b) To take all necessary steps so as to prohibit the export of radioactive wastes, except to countries with appropriate waste treatment and storage facilities;

(c) To strengthen cooperation and provide assistance to economies in transition in solving their urgent and specific problems due to improper treatment and disposal with regard to radioactive wastes;

(d) To provide technical assistance to developing countries in order to enable them to develop or improve procedures for the management and safe disposal of radioactive wastes deriving from the use of radionuclides in medicine, research and industry;

(e) To facilitate financial assistance to developing countries in order for them to address adequately radioactive wastes management problems.

16. The Commission calls upon Governments and relevant multilateral funding organizations to assist developing countries in national capacity-building for the safe and sound management of radioactive wastes.

17. The Commission urges Governments, together with IAEA, to promote policies and practical measures to minimize and limit, where appropriate, the generation of radioactive wastes and provide for their safe processing, conditioning, transportation, storage and disposal, taking into account the provisions of chapter 22 of Agenda 21.

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GENERAL DISCUSSION ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21, FOCUSING ON THE CROSS-SECTORAL COMPONENTS OF AGENDA 21 AND THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Information provided by Governments and organizations

1. The Commission noted with appreciation the receipt of information from 50 States and organizations. This information constitutes for the first year a creditable result. It is the Commission's hope that future years will bring an even greater exchange of information on national and other relevant experience in implementing Agenda 21. The Commission also noted that the work of the Secretariat in processing and analysing the information received provided a valuable input to the Commission.

2. The Commission agrees that the guidelines established by and for the Secretariat could be simplified, taking into account the discussion during the second session, within the framework of the decision taken at its first session, in 1993, in order to facilitate further exchange of information. Such information could be presented in tabular form, supplemented by brief descriptive texts.

3. In preparing information for voluntary submission to the Commission, countries may wish to include relevant national indicators already in use which could facilitate the exchange of information related to the implementation of Agenda 21. In this regard, the Commission reaffirms the decision contained in paragraph 30 of chapter I of the report on its first session. 1/

1/ E/1993/25/Add.1.

4. The Commission requests relevant organizations within and outside the United Nations system, as well as donors, to provide, upon request, technical and financial assistance to countries, particularly developing countries, in the preparation of periodic communications or national reports and national Agenda 21 action plans, and notes the intention of several donors and organizations to consider such requests favourably.

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Agenda item 3

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21, FOCUSING ON THE CROSS-SECTORAL COMPONENTS OF AGENDA 21 AND THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Decision-making structures

1. The Commission welcomes the entry into force of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the adoption of the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and urges that appropriate follow-up action be taken. The Commission supports the successful conclusion in June 1994 of the negotiations for the elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and calls upon all States to accelerate progress in the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and to promote the successful conclusion of the Intergovernmental Conference on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, to be held in Washington, D.C., in November 1995.

2. The Commission expresses its appreciation to the Government of Austria for organizing the International Symposium on Sustainable Development and International Law, held at Baden bei Wien from 14 to 16 April 1994. The Commission welcomes the report of that Symposium (E/CN.17/1994/16), which opens a new promising avenue in the field of codification and development of international law in support of the fulfilment of the goals and objectives of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The Commission recommends that relevant international treaty regimes contain effective machinery for consensus-building and dispute settlement. The Commission requests the United Nations Environment Programme to study further the concept, requirements and implications of sustainable development and international law.

3. The Commission, having examined the report of the Secretary-General containing an overview of cross-sectoral issues (E/CN.17/1994/2), in particular section IV on decision-making structures, takes note of the important measures taken by Governments to integrate environment aspects into the development process within their decision-making structures, and requests all States and relevant intergovernmental organizations to submit, or continue to submit, information on an annual, voluntary basis on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and other agreements and conferences related to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), as appropriate.

4. The Commission also notes the setting up by the Secretary-General of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development, and emphasizes the desirability of fostering close interaction between the Board and the Commission, including its Bureau.

5. The Commission takes note of the background paper containing the report entitled "Decision-making structures: international legal instruments and mechanisms", prepared by the task manager designated by the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD). The Commission urges the Secretary-General to give high priority to coordination through the work of IACSD. The Commission supports the designation by IACSD of task managers as an important first step to improve coordination, and it calls upon the task managers to provide innovative proposals for ways to achieve more efficient results, including multi-agency joint programming, within available resources. The Commission requests the Secretary-General to inform the Commission on progress made in IACSD towards coordination among United Nations bodies in implementing Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and other UNCED-related agreements and conferences, as appropriate. United Nations organizations, as well as international and regional financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations and other relevant institutions are invited to give priority to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration, and UNCED-related agreements and conferences, as appropriate.

6. The Commission emphasizes the importance of creating appropriate national frameworks for the implementation of Agenda 21 and other relevant agreements and conferences, bearing in mind the need for a progressive provision of financial resources and technology transfer, where appropriate. In this respect, the Commission requests all States to establish the necessary coordinating machinery for the promotion of sustainable development. The Commission also calls upon the United Nations system, through the IACSD task managers, to coordinate its capacity-building activities and to develop joint programming for this purpose, wherever feasible.

7. In accordance with their national sustainable development priorities, developing countries should, as appropriate, be supported in strengthening their capacity in the development or streamlining of sustainable development strategies, the development and maintenance of environmental law, including the development of environmental impact assessment procedures, as well as their capacity to participate effectively in the development of international law related to sustainable development, and the elaboration of conventions and other international instruments in this field.

8. The Commission recognizes the importance of full participation of all interested parties in the negotiation of international agreements relating to sustainable development, and therefore calls upon the relevant bodies to promote the provision, through transparent and accountable mechanisms, of financial support for the participation, in negotiating forums, of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, at their request.

9. The Commission recommends that States and international organizations consider the use of partnerships with business and non-governmental communities leading to non-legally binding agreements as first steps in the preparation of international regulations.

10. The Commission notes the need for coordination and more efficient structural arrangements among the secretariats of conventions related to sustainable development.

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OTHER MATTERS

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Matters related to the inter-sessional work of the Commission

1. The Commission, taking into account its mandate to coordinate and review progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, bearing in mind the experience acquired so far in work carried out inter-sessionally and recognizing the need for further rationalization and integration of future inter-sessional activities with a view to adequately preparing for its third session:

(a) Reconfirms the mandate of its Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Finance, as contained in paragraph 61 of chapter I of the report on its first session; 1/ requests the Working Group, in carrying out its mandate to, inter alia, (i) focus more directly on the financial sources and mechanisms appropriate to sectoral issues under review by the Commission; (ii) develop a matrix of financial sources and mechanisms which can be applied to these sectors, and maintain the integrated approach; and (iii) pursue the study of selected innovative financing mechanisms, as well as of economic instruments; and also requests the Working Group to involve more actively international financial institutions and other multilateral funding organizations and the private sector in its work, bearing in mind the need to bring together concrete projects and private actors;

(b) Decides to establish an inter-sessional ad hoc, open-ended working group composed of Governments, which will nominate experts to assist the Commission in the preparation, in a coordinated and integrated way, of the

1/ E/1993/25/Add.1.

examination of sectoral issues to be reviewed by the Commission at its third session, in accordance with the multi-year thematic programme of work of the Commission - namely, the sectoral cluster entitled "Land, desertification, forests and biodiversity". The mandate of the working group should be:

(i) To review chapters 10 to 15 of Agenda 21 and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, taking account, as appropriate, of inputs from other forums, such as the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention on Biological Diversity and the respective Conventions, inasmuch as such inputs have a bearing on the work of the Commission;

(ii) To take stock of inter-sessional activity organized by Governments or international organizations on sectoral issues under review at the Commission's third session;

(iii) To group together initiatives under way on a particular sectoral issue;

(iv) To convey the results of relevant inter-sessional work to the Commission;

(v) To make recommendations on the organization of the Commission's discussions of sectoral issues in the light of inter-sessional activity.

2. The Commission, taking into account the need for effective implementation of its functions related to the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building, decides that the functions of its Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Technology Transfer and Cooperation, established at its first session for a trial period of one year, will be carried out by the two ad hoc working groups referred to above as follows:

(a) The Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Finance will consider all issues related to the financial aspects of transfer of environmentally sound technologies;

(b) The Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Sectoral Issues will consider technology transfer issues in relation to the specific sectoral issues under review in 1995, including the experience of individual countries.

3. The Commission decides that the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Sectoral Issues will have a one-year mandate so that the Commission can review its performance at its third session, in 1995.

4. The Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Groups on Finance and Sectoral Issues should meet for a period of one week each, at least six weeks before the third session of the Commission. The meeting on sectoral issues should take place before that on finance in order to facilitate the identification of the resource needs and mechanisms applicable to specific sectors.

5. The Commission requests the Secretariat, in order to ensure transparency, to disseminate, as appropriate, within existing resources, information about inter-sessional activities and their results, possibly on the basis of a common reporting format.

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EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGIES, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development reviewed with appreciation the report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Technology Transfer and Cooperation (E/CN.17/1994/11) and took note of the background paper containing the Task Manager's report on the transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building, as well as section III of the report of the Secretary-General containing an overview of cross-sectoral issues (E/CN.17/1994/2). The Commission also noted the part of the report of the High-level Advisory Board (E/CN.17/1994/13) relating to new approaches to environmentally sound technology cooperation.

2. The Commission noted with appreciation the valuable initiatives undertaken by various members of the Commission during the inter-sessional period as a contribution to the work of the Commission in the area of transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building, as discussed in chapter 34 and other chapters of Agenda 21.

3. The Commission recognized that developing countries face severe constraints in their efforts to promote and engage in technology transfer and cooperation due to the lack of adequate financial resources and limited human, managerial and institutional capacities. In this regard, the Commission welcomed the emphasis given by the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Technology Transfer and Cooperation to three key areas requiring priority attention, namely: (1) access to and dissemination of reliable information on environmentally sound technologies, (2) institutional development and capacity-building and (3) financial and partnership arrangements.

4. The Commission noted that many of the proposals for action related to the transfer of environmentally sound technology and cooperation are based on practical experiences gained in some sectoral areas, and that many of these experiences can be applied to other sectors as well.

5. The Commission stressed, in the context of chapter 34 of Agenda 21, the need for Governments of developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition to take, with the support of international organizations and institutions, specific action, through long-term cooperation and partnership arrangements, inter alia, to (a) promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries, for the implementation of Agenda 21; (b) promote long-term technological cooperation and partnership between holders of environmentally sound technologies and potential users; and (c) build the endogenous capacities of those countries required to develop, assess, encourage and utilize such technologies through, inter alia, research and development, education and training.

6. The Commission reaffirmed the crucial importance of strengthening the capacities, in particular of developing countries to assess, develop, apply and manage environmentally sound technologies tailored to the countries' own needs and priorities and stressed the need to focus efforts on capacity-building and institutional development.

7. The Commission recognized that the expertise required for technology transfer and cooperation is being developed in many countries. Therefore, Governments and enterprises are urged to look throughout the world for the best ideas and creative solutions to meet their needs and solve their problems. The transfer of unproved or environmentally detrimental technologies could thereby be avoided.

8. The Commission reiterated the importance of public and private enterprises in technological innovation and as an important conduit through which technology is developed, transferred, used and disseminated. In this regard, the Commission recognized that technology partnership arrangements at the enterprise level are a promising mechanism to facilitate the access to information on environmentally sound technologies, to support the development, transfer, use and dissemination of these technologies and related know-how. They also strengthen the operational, administrative and maintenance skills of the users, and stimulate best practice methods for improving environmental performance at the enterprise level, including through promoting the pollution prevention approach in the production and use of goods and services. Companies must continue to adapt and develop the technology during the period of cooperation. In this context, the concepts of "Build-operate-transfer" (BOT) 1/

1/ "Build-operate-transfer" arrangements can be used by private companies to build a project, operate it long enough to pay back its debts and to achieve a return on equity, and then transfer it to the host Government.

arrangements, regional technomarts and technofairs, 2/ were considered promising approaches to technology transfer which need further examination.

9. The Commission noted the efforts of some industry associations to organize conferences in selected countries in different regions for industry and trade associations which would focus on environmental management, monitoring and reporting, and to undertake research projects to collect and analyse case studies of successful and unsuccessful technology transfer and cooperation programmes.

10. The Commission also stressed the crucial role that Governments of both developed and developing countries have to play in creating favourable conditions for the public sector and in encouraging the private sector to develop and transfer environmentally sound technologies, and to build the capacities in developing countries to effectively use and manage those technologies. In this regard, international cooperation is highly important. The application of incentives, such as reducing trade barriers, encouraging competition, opening up markets to foreign collaboration, reducing corporate taxes and providing fiscal incentives to enterprises that implement the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, as well as other market reforms and sector restructuring, are likely to have a substantial impact on improving access to capital for new technologies. The further improvement and effective implementation of an appropriate policy, legal and regulatory framework, on both the supply and the demand side, can create new possibilities for the development of environmentally sound technologies and their transfer to developing countries. This may include a mix of macroeconomic policies, economic incentives and environmental regulations. Special attention should also be given, as recommended by the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Technology Transfer and Cooperation, to the involvement of small and medium-sized industries in the process of technology transfer as they are the backbone of business and industry in most developing countries. In this context, the Commission welcomed the offer by the Government of Norway, in cooperation with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to host a seminar on the role of small and medium-sized enterprises in technology transfer.

11. The Commission welcomed the recommendations of the Working Group concerning the need to promote efforts towards closer interaction between all actors involved in technology transfer and cooperation and networking of institutional capacities. In this context, the strengthening of existing environmental technology centres and the establishment of new ones in developing countries would be of crucial importance in promoting development, transfer and adaptation of environmentally sound technologies. They are a promising instrument that could initiate research and development on environmentally sound technologies and facilitate technological collaboration between different partners at the national and regional levels. The strengthening or establishment of such centres could also be considered for countries with economies in transition.

2/ Technomarts and technofairs are market places where technology suppliers and users meet to exchange practical information on and demonstrate applications of environmentally sound technologies.

12. The Commission felt that the Working Group identified key priority areas for the future work of the Commission and provided an important forum for the discussion of issues and the consideration of options that might have been difficult in other contexts.

13. The Commission took note of the relevant provisions on the transfer of technology contained in the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held at Bridgetown, Barbados from 26 April to 6 May 1994, and urged that adequate support be given to priority areas in technology transfer as identified in the Programme of Action.

14. The Commission, therefore,

(a) Encourages and requests appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to conduct, including in collaboration with other international organizations, such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, a survey on and assessment of the available sources of information as well as supporting systems and inventories, and their effective use, focusing on selected environmentally sound technologies. The survey and assessment should cover sources and systems of information on technologies that are in the public domain as well as those protected by patents, whether privately or publicly owned. In this regard, Governments, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, other international organizations, private non-profit organizations, trade associations, industrial and commercial associations and enterprises, research institutes, other non-governmental organizations, as well as other relevant entities, are encouraged to provide all relevant information and any other appropriate assistance, including case studies on technology transfer, in particular through the Internet-based systems and facilities. The objective is to identify gaps and/or deficiencies in the information sources or systems surveyed, and indicate feasible approaches to correcting such problems, in order to improve the access to and efficient use of such systems. An initial report on the results of this survey and assessment should be submitted to the Commission at its third session, in 1995;

(b) Invites industry associations to provide to the Commission, and to disseminate more widely, information on efforts being made and results achieved in environmentally sound technology transfer, cooperation and capacity-building, including through foreign direct investment and various forms of technology partnerships with developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(c) Invites Governments of developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition and regional and intergovernmental organizations, to conduct collaboratively, with the assistance of international organizations and institutions, as appropriate, case studies on national technology needs for environmentally sound technologies, capacity-building and institutional development, and welcomes the initiatives already being undertaken

thereon, including with regard to further developing methodologies and identifying sources of funding, and to report to the Commission at its third session;

(d) Requests the Secretary-General to invite appropriate organizations of the United Nations system to examine the concrete modalities and the usefulness of innovative technology transfer mechanisms such as "one-stop shops", 3/ "environmentally sound technology rights banks" (ESTRBs) 4/ or "build-operate-transfer" (BOT) arrangements, and submit concrete recommendations to the Commission at its third session. Such an effort should take full advantage of the expertise of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development and other eminent technical experts;

(e) Invites appropriate organizations of the United Nations system to further examine, in close collaboration with other interested parties, including private sector associations, the operational modalities and concrete applications of the concept of "benchmarking"; 5/

(f) Calls upon Governments and international organizations to make available, in close collaboration with relevant financial institutions and the private sector, information on the conditions and concrete modalities for setting up and managing venture capital funds for certain types of environmentally sound technologies, and to share with the Commission the results achieved and experiences gained in the application of their conditions and modalities;

(g) Requests the Secretary-General to call upon Governments to explore, in close collaboration with appropriate organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, both regional and multilateral, including financial institutions, and the private sector, the potential for joint ventures and the feasibility of providing adequate financing to pursue such joint ventures, and to report to the Commission at its third session;

(h) Invites UNCTAD, UNDP, UNIDO, UNEP, other appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, both regional and multilateral, including financial institutions, to assist, in particular developing countries, in applying conditions and new modalities for the involvement of small and medium-sized enterprises in long-term international technology partnership arrangements, including in the preparation, execution and

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3/ "One-stop shops" are referral centres which could assist technology users to obtain all required information available on all aspects of national conditions related to the transfer of technology from one source.

4/ "Environmentally sound technology rights banks" are ownership arrangements which would act as a broker for acquiring patent rights to sounder technologies and make them available to countries in need of technical assistance, and in particular to developing countries on favourable terms.

5/ "Benchmarking" is an instrument for assessing, monitoring and encouraging best-practice standards at the enterprise level.

post-servicing of sustainable development projects at the local level, and to report to the Commission at its third session;

(i) Invites the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, in particular UNIDO, to undertake, within available resources, sectoral and techno-economic studies and demonstration projects on the transfer of industrial environmentally sound technologies and techniques in order to support sustainable development in the area of industry and to report to the Commission at its third session on initial results achieved by that time;

(j) Requests the Secretary-General to invite appropriate organizations of the United Nations system to examine the feasibility of establishing a consultative group on environmental technology centres bearing in mind the experience of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR);

(k) Calls upon Governments, particularly of developed countries, to promote the contribution of their universities and research centres in the transfer of available environmentally sound technologies and expertise, including through such mechanisms as university grants and workshops, and encourages international organizations to support those efforts.

15. The Commission recommends the following criteria to effectively organize its future work:

(a) As a general rule, issues related to transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building should be reported through the two Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Groups;

(b) Taking stock of previous experience (lessons learned and results achieved in the relevant initiatives being undertaken during the inter-sessional period) to advance the debate and facilitate decision-making in the regular sessions of the Commission;

(c) Greater involvement of experts, the private sector and non-governmental organizations;

(d) Presenting the results to the secretariat of the Commission in time for them to be incorporated into the documentation to be submitted to the Commission. Those results should be presented to the secretariat in the form of an extremely short and comprehensive paper, focusing on two areas: (1) shortcomings and unresolved problems identified; and (2) feasible and practical recommendations for further consideration by the Commission, tailored to different actors such as Governments, international organizations and institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

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Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Revised text of Commission decisions on major groups

1. The Commission recognized the indispensable role that major groups and their representatives play in the implementation of Agenda 21, but acknowledged the need to improve the quality of information about the problems, needs and contributions of major groups to the implementation of Agenda 21 and other commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

2. The Commission stressed the vital role of women, in particular, in bringing about sustainable development. The Commission expressed the view that the forthcoming United Nations conferences, such as the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace will be conducive to the empowerment of women that is necessary to enable them to play that vital role.

3. The Commission also recalled the central place of future generations within the concept of sustainable development, and encouraged the participation of children and youth, and their organizations, in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the need to increase efforts in relevant education and training to attain the changes in attitude of present and future generations necessary for sustainable development.

4. Governments and international organizations, as well as major group representatives themselves, particularly those from the developing countries, are encouraged to take concrete steps to enhance the involvement of major groups and to provide information on the extent of involvement of major group organizations comprising, inter alia, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in efforts and programmes to realize the goals of Agenda 21. The Commission suggested that such information, submitted on a voluntary basis, might include:

(a) The extent of major group involvement in sustainable development activities, including participation in project design and implementation and evaluation of projects at the local, national, regional, subregional and international levels;

(b) Innovative methods that have increased the quality and quantity of consultations with major group representatives and organizations;

(c) Indicators of major group involvement, including financial and resource allocations made to them, as well as their own involvement in the provision of technical assistance and other types of support for Agenda 21 activities;

(d) Identification of obstacles and difficulties related to major group participation and steps taken to overcome them;

(e) Compilation and publication of case-studies, preferably undertaken in the four regional areas, by major groups and Governments, on the successful or unsuccessful efforts of major groups, in sustainable development programmes and activities; these case-studies should also include a one-page executive summary.

5. Such information should be provided annually, in the context of reports and periodic communications on the activities relevant to the Agenda 21 clusters to be discussed at future sessions of the Commission in accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the Commission.

6. The Secretary-General is requested to continue to include relevant information received from major groups in the documentation prepared for future sessions of the Commission.

7. The Commission stresses the need for major groups, their representatives and organizations to play an active and substantive role in the implementation of Agenda 21, including the holding of seminars, round-tables and multi-stakeholder meetings on the yearly thematic topics discussed by the Commission.

8. The Commission calls upon international organizations, particularly those with field offices, within their respective mandates and in compliance with the laws, sustainable development strategies and priorities of the countries concerned, to enhance the contribution of major group organizations to sustainable development and to encourage more active involvement of major group representatives in their activities.

9. The Commission encourages all major groups, in particular those in the private sector, to engage in creating multi-stakeholder partnerships and to carry out concrete partnership projects.

10. The Commission recommends that the overall access of major groups, including non-governmental organizations, to the Commission's work throughout the year be clarified and enhanced, and, without prejudice to the outcome of the general review of arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations to be carried out by the Economic and Social Council, recommends (a) that the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 place non-governmental organizations accredited to the Commission by Council decision 1993/220 on the Roster, as envisaged in Council decision 1993/215, and (b) that the Council continue to grant Roster status to those non-governmental organizations that were accredited to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and which confirm their interest in being accredited to the Commission.